

Board of Selectman  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2019 at 7:30pm  
Town Hall Meeting Room

**Attendance:** First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Selectman Samantha Nestor, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene and Weston Residents.

This meeting was videotaped and can be viewed on Channel 79 and on our Town of Weston website.

- 1- **Call to Order:** First Selectman Chris Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7:30pm
- 2- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Ellen McCormick
- 3- **Discussion/decision to hire Abigayel Phillips as Library Tech Assistant.** Ms. Phillips stated she is excited about all the new programming as well as the new addition. She also spoke about her background in Social Media. Library Director, Karen Tatarka, spoke about the specific role and responsibilities including the new maker space and marketing for social media platforms. Selectman Nestor moved to hire Abigayel Phillips as Library Tech Assistant, effective March 4, 2019. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4- **Discussion/decision to appoint Cyprian Toczec to the Library Board.** Mr. Toczec expressed examples of leadership skills and his desire to help the town. First Selectman Spaulding said we interviewed another candidate at the last meeting, Debby Katz. He said she is already serving on the committee for the arts, and given that this age demographic is not being represented, CS would like to appoint Mr. Toczec. Selectman Nestor stated she feels this could be an example for other people this age to step up and have a voice be heard. Selectman Grozinger supported this idea as well. Selectman Nestor moved to appoint Cyprian Toczec to the Library Board, for a term to end December 31, 2022. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5- **Discussion/decision to appoint Erica Reiner to the Lachat Town Farm Commission:** Ms. Reiner stated she has already been helping the committee through planning and fund raising. Selectman Nestor moved to appoint Erica Reiner to the Lachat Town Farm Commission for a term to end December 31, 2020. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6- **Discussion/decision to accept Sara Spaulding's resignation from the Board of Education, effective February 21, 2019.** Selectman Nestor thanked Ms. Spaulding for all she has done while serving on the BOW for more than 6 years as well as the PTO. Selectman Nestor moved to accept Sara Spaulding's resignation from the Board of Education, effective February 21, 2019. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7- **Discussion/decision to appoint Dan Frank to the Commission for Children and YHouth, filling the vacancy left by Allison Lisbon, for a term to end June 30, 2021.** Mr. Frank spoke about how he is involved with the schools and the children. Selectman Nestor moved to appoint Dan Frank to the

Board of Selectman  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2019 at 7:30pm  
Town Hall Meeting Room

Commission for Children and Youth, filling the vacancy left by Allison Lisbon, for a term to end June 30, 2021. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**8- Discussion/decision to appoint Woody Bliss as Moderator for the Annual Town Budget Meeting on April 24, 2019.** Selectman Nestor moved to appoint Woody Bliss as Moderator for the Annual Town Budget Meeting on April 24, 2019. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**9- Discussion/decision to appoint Barbara Reynolds as Parliamentarian for the Annual Town Budget Meeting on April 24, 2019.** Selectman Nestor moved to appoint Barbara Reynolds as Parliamentarian for the Annual Town Budget Meeting on April 24, 2019. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**10- Discussion/decision to adopt a joint statement regarding bills from the State Legislator that would mandate regionalization of local school districts.** Selectman Nestor read the following statement:

As your local town leaders we strive to be thoughtful advocates for the interests of Weston residents. We are aware that for many in our town the tax burden is great. The Board of Selectmen is committed to carefully developing budgets that balance town and school services with fiscal responsibility. Additionally, we continually seek ways to partner with neighboring towns to create efficiencies through voluntary regionalization measures.

We have closely reviewed three recent Connecticut State Senate Bills: SB-738, SB-431 and SB-457, and have notified our legislative representatives of the negative impact these bills would have on the quality of Weston's schools and property values.

We hope you will join us in opposition to SB-738 and SB-457 or any other future bill that forces us to regionalize our schools. The small, intimate nature of Weston Public Schools is a top reason cited by homebuyers deciding to reside our town. The financial impact of school district regionalization would be particularly severe for Weston given our small commercial tax base. Furthermore, as a matter of principle we believe towns should have control over their schools. Although we are not opposed to educational reform, the bills proposed in the State Senate are poorly conceived.

We also stand united in opposing SB 431, a bill that calls for the imposition of a statewide property tax to be levied in addition to existing municipal property taxes. Weston residents already struggle with property taxes and this bill will further discourage Weston home sales and make it untenable for many current residents to remain.

We urge every Weston resident to join us in opposing these bills.

Selectman Grozinger moved to adopt this joint statement. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**11- Minutes approval:** Selectman Nestor moved to adopt the Board of Selectmen minutes of February 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> as presented. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**12- Adjournment:** Selectman Nestor moved to adjourn at 8:07pm. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Selectman  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2019 at 7:30pm  
Town Hall Meeting Room

Minutes submitted by: Randi Derene

Approved: March 7, 2019